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Disqualified Jefferson County judicial candidate still gets most votes

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Linda Hall, a Jefferson County lawyer who was recently disqualified from holding a circuit court judgeship, still won the most votes in Tuesday's general election.

With 97 percent of the votes tallied, Hall, a Democrat, was ahead in the race with 131,981 votes, compared to Republican Teresa Pulliam's 115,403.

Although Hall was declared disqualified from holding the judgeship, votes were still being tallied Tuesday to see if Pulliam, the incumbent, could continue in the job she has held since 2006. Now, with Hall getting the most votes, it appears [Gov. Kay Ivey will appoint](#) someone to sit on the bench.

Jefferson County Circuit Court Place 16 has been one of the county's most contested judicial races, after Hall's disqualification from the race in October. It was too late to remove her name from the ballot.

Fayette County Circuit Judge Samuel Junkin ruled last month that Hall could not take the bench because she didn't meet residency requirements that say a candidate must live in the county in which they are campaigning in for at least 12 months prior to the election. He ordered that Hall's votes must be counted, but she won't be eligible to take office if she gets the most votes.

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[Gov. Kay Ivey will appoint](#) someone to fill the open seat on the bench.

In a separate order, the judge said former candidate Peter Davis cannot claim Hall's spot as the Democratic nominee for the judicial seat. Davis was Hall's opponent in the

Democrat primary earlier this year after a county vote. A lawsuit claiming Hall should be barred from running because of she had lived in Shelby County for the majority of the past 12 months, Davis said he was the rightful nominee.

Hall was disqualified from the race after Junkin determined she had not lived in Jefferson County for the required amount of time. Junkin was appointed to preside over the case after all Jefferson County judges recused themselves.

During a day-long trial, Hall testified about her living arrangements for the past 18 months and said she would not have ran if she was aware she had lived in Shelby County. During her testimony, Hall detailed several different Shelby County apartments she has lived in during the past year and also said she lived in St. Louis, MO, between August and December 2017.

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Pulliam, a Huntsville native, graduated from Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama School of Law, and worked as a prosecutor in the Mobile District Attorney's Office before moving to the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office in 1986. Before taking the bench, Pulliam worked in private practice for 14 years.

Votes for disqualified candidate won't count, but must be tallied

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